

REMARKS

Examination of pending claims 27-42 is requested in light of the remarks presented below is respectfully requested.

Previous Office Action

In the Office Action mailed December 8, 2004, claims 27-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,727,443). To anticipate a claim, the cited reference must teach each and every limitation of the claim. Because Peterson et al. fails to teach every limitation of the pending claims, it cannot anticipate the claimed invention and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 27

Claim 27 requires:

A modular washing machine control comprising:

- a circuit board;
- a processor mounted on the circuit board, the processor having input lines and output lines;
- a water valve driver mounted on the circuit board and being operatively coupled to the processor so that the processor operates a water valve by generating a signal on an output line of the processor that is coupled to the water valve driver;
- a water temperature selector mounted on the circuit board and operatively connected to the processor so that a signal generated on the circuit board by the selector is received by the processor and used to control the signal on the output line to the water valve driver; and
- a housing mounted to the circuit board to enclose the water temperature selector, water valve driver, and processor so that the water temperature selector, water valve driver, and processor may be mounted to the frame of a washing machine as an integral unit.

The Peterson et al. reference fails to disclose at least two limitations of the claim.

For one, Peterson et al. do not teach a water temperature selector mounted on

the circuit board to which a water temperature sensor and a processor are also mounted. The components mounted on the circuit board of Peterson et al. are set forth at Col. 26, line 30 to Col. 30, line 18 and do not include a water temperature selector. The sections of Peterson to which the Examiner refers indicate that a water temperature selector is provided for the washing machine that the control system of Peterson et al. operates, but it does not disclose the structure of that selector. The face of the control system taught in Peterson et al. does not include water temperature selections. Compare Fig. 53, Peterson et al. with Fig. 2, pending application. The selector of Peterson et al. is a mode selector and does not show the water temperature selector required by claim 27 and its depending claims 28-31. For at least this reason, Peterson et al. does not anticipate claim 27 and its depending claims 28-31.

Claim 27 also requires a housing for enclosing the water temperature selector, water valve driver, and processor mounted on the same circuit card. Because Peterson et al. do not disclose a water temperature selector mounted on the same circuit card with a water valve driver and processor, it cannot have a housing that performs this function.¹

As noted by the Examiner, Peterson et al. is assigned to the common assignee of the present application. Therefore, Peterson et al. cannot be used to render the invention of claim 27 obvious. See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

Consequently, claim 27 should be allowed.

¹ In the Office Action, the Examiner identifies the housing as component 40 in Peterson et al. Component 40 in Peterson et al. is identified as a frame. See, e.g., Col. 5, lines 38-42. The housing disclosed in Peterson et al. is denoted with the reference numeral 302. See, Col. 26,

Claims 28-31

Claims 28-31 include the water temperature selector and the housing enclosing the water temperature selector, water valve driver, and processor mounted to a circuit card. Because these elements are not explicitly taught by Peterson et al., these claims should be allowed.

Claims 32-36

Claim 32 requires:

A method for forming an integral machine control module for mounting to the frame of a washing machine comprising:

- mounting a processor having input lines and output lines on a circuit board;

- mounting a water valve driver on the circuit board and operatively coupling the water valve driver to the processor so that the processor operates a water valve by generating a signal on an output line of the processor that is coupled to the water valve driver;

- mounting a water temperature selector on the circuit board and operatively coupling the water temperature selector to the processor so that a signal generated on the circuit board by the selector is received by the processor to control the signal on the output line to the water valve driver; and

- enclosing the circuit board in a housing so that the water temperature selector, water valve driver, and processor may be mounted to the frame of a washing machine as an integral unit.

As noted above, Peterson et al. do not disclose a water temperature selector mounted on the circuit board to which a processor and a water valve driver have been mounted. Also, as previously noted, Peterson et al. do not disclose a housing that encloses the circuit board to which the water temperature selector, water valve driver, and processor have been mounted. For at least these reasons, the method claim 32 is not anticipated by Peterson et al. Furthermore,

lines 30-36. This housing, for reasons, noted above does not enclose a water selector, water valve driver, and a processor mounted on a circuit card.

the method of claim 32 cannot be rendered obvious by Peterson et al. because it is commonly assigned to the assignee of the pending application. Therefore, claim 32 and its depending claims 33-36 should be allowed.

Claims 37-42

Claim 37 recites:

A modular washing machine control comprising:
a circuit board;
a processor mounted on the circuit board, the processor having input lines and output lines;
a water valve driver mounted on the circuit board and being operatively coupled to the processor so that the processor operates a water valve by generating a signal on an output line of the processor that is coupled to the water valve driver; and
a water temperature selector mounted on the circuit board and operatively connected to the processor so that a signal generated on the circuit board by the selector is received by the processor and used to control the signal on the output line to the water valve driver.

As noted above, Peterson et al. does not disclose a water temperature selector mounted on the circuit board to which a processor and a water valve driver have been mounted. For at least this reason, claim 37 is not anticipated by Peterson et al. Furthermore, claim 37 cannot be rendered obvious by Peterson et al. because it is commonly assigned to the assignee of the pending application.

Therefore, claim 37 and its depending claims 38-42 should be allowed.

Summary

Each of the claims 27-42 includes a water temperature selector that is mounted to the circuit board to which a water valve driver and a processor have been mounted. For reasons set forth above, Peterson et al. do not disclose a water temperature selector mounted to a circuit board to which a processor and a

Amendment
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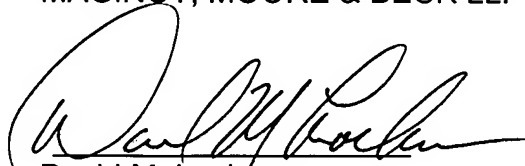
water valve driver have been mounted. Consequently, Peterson et al. do not anticipate any of the claims 27-42.

Additionally, some of the pending claims also require a housing for enclosing the circuit board to which a water temperature selector, a water valve driver, and a processor have been mounted. This limitation provides an additional ground for the allowance of these claims. Also, some of the pending claims include a limitation regarding the use of a look-up table to determine the water temperature selected. Peterson et al. do not discuss such a mechanism for determining water temperature selection because Peterson et al. are not disclosing a water temperature selection control.

For at least these reasons, all of the pending claims 27-42 should be allowed. Allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David M. Lockman', is written over a horizontal line.

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